

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A composition for application to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier;

about 0.000001 to about 5.0 wt % thickener comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, and hydroxyethylcellulose;

about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of at least one active ingredient comprising oxymetazoline hydrochloride; and

about 0.00001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a permeation enhancer comprising liposomes;

wherein the composition is a gelled matrix and has a viscosity between about 2,500 and about 40,000 centipoise, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

31. (Currently Amended) A composition for application to a nasal membrane, the composition comprising:

about 90 to about 99.999 weight percent of a carrier;

about 0.000001 to about 5.0 wt % thickener comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of glycerin, carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, and hydroxyethylcellulose;

about 0.001 to about 5.0 weight percent of at least one active ingredient comprising oxymetazoline hydrochloride;

about 0.00001 to about 5.0 weight percent of a permeation enhancer comprising liposomes; and

about 0.000001 to about 1.0 weight percent of an aromatic substance comprising at least one of menthol or eucalyptus oil extract;

wherein the composition has a viscosity between about 2,500 and about 40,000 centipoise, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

32-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A composition for application to a nasal membrane, the composition consisting essentially of:

about 0.045 wt % to about 0.055 wt % oxymetazoline;

less than about 5.0% by weight of at least one vitamin;

about 0.00001 wt % to about 5.0 wt % permeation enhancer;

about 0 wt % to about 1.0 wt % aromatic substance selected from the group consisting of camphor, eucalyptus oil, menthol, azulene, extracts thereof, and mixtures thereof;

0.00001% to about 1.0% by weight of aloe vera powder ~~barbadensis gel~~;

about 0.0001 wt % to about 1.0 wt % preservative;

about 0.000001 to about 5.0 wt % thickener;

0.05% to about 5.0% by weight glycerin;

about 90 wt % to about 99 wt % water;

about 0.00001 wt % to about 1.0 wt % emulsion agent; and

about 0.0002 wt % to about 6.0 wt % buffer.

41. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition is~~ about 2,500 cp to about 40,000 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

42. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition is~~ about 3,000 cp to about 10,000 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

43. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition is~~ about 4,000 cp to about 6,000 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

44. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition~~ is about 5,000 cp to about 40,000 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

45. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition~~ is about 5,000 cp to about 7,500 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

46. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition has a viscosity of ~~viscosity of the composition~~ is about 5,000 cp to about 6,000 cp, as measured according to ASTM D1824-87.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the thickener comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of carrageenan, sugar, guar gum, methylcellulose, and hydroxyethylcellulose.

48. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the thickener comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

49. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the composition is in the form of a gelled matrix.

50. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the preservative comprises benzyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride, disodium EDTA, and mixtures thereof.

51. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the preservative includes benzyl alcohol, benzalkonium chloride, and disodium EDTA.

52. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the permeation enhancer comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of liposomes, sequestering agents, ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), glycerol, chitosan, and lysophosphotidylcholin.

53. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the emulsion agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerolpolyethylene glycol ricinoleate, fatty acid esters of polyethyleneglycol, ethoxylated glycerol, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the emulsion agent comprises hydroxylated lecithin.

55. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40, wherein the buffer comprises disodium phosphate, monosodium phosphate, or mixtures thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 40; wherein the buffer comprises about 0.0001% to about 3.0% of disodium phosphate and 0.0001% to about 3.0% of monosodium phosphate.

57. (Currently Amended) A method of applying an effective amount of an active substance to a nasal membrane, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the composition of claim 40; ~~and~~

applying the composition in the nasal cavity; and

maintaining the composition in contact with the nasal membrane for an extended period of time to reduce one or more symptoms associated with congestion.